

Meeting
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DCI/IC 73-0942
23 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting on Watch Officers Phone Conferencing
Net - 22 August 1973

1. A second meeting was held at CIA Headquarters with representatives from CIA, White House Communications Agency (WHCA), NSA and the IC Staff (Attachment), concerning actions to be taken to include the White House Situation Room in the watch officers phone conferencing net. At present only NSA, CIA, State, NMIC and NMCC are participants.

2. Col. Ogden of the WHCA stated that WHCA is in the process of installing a new switchboard system in the White House which provides the phone conferencing capability we desire. The system allows any of the six watch officer centers (WHSR, CIA, DIA, NMCC, NSA, State) to lift the receiver, give a voice command to the White House operator, who in turn closes a switch immediately connecting all watch officers. Col. Ogden indicated this system should become operational this winter but is checking to find a more precise target date.

3. A discussion was held on what steps might be taken within two weeks to include the White House Situation Room into the existing watch officer gray phone conferencing net. [redacted] (NSA) and [redacted] (CIA) will examine an interconnect/cross connect arrangement between NSA and CIA equipment that might provide an interim arrangement by which the WHSR can be connected to the net. If feasible, this will allow testing and training procedures to be undertaken while awaiting the installation of the new White House switchboard.

4. Agreement was reached to take the following actions:

a. NSA and CIA will by 27 August inform the IC Staff of their capability to connect the WHSR to the watch officer net as a temporary measure. In addition NSA and CIA will attempt to secure headsets for the net to provide a hands-off-capability.

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b. WHCA will report next week as to when the new White House conferencing switchboard will be operational.

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Acting Chief, IHC/SS

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